

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: AF/PPS:JMCOYKENDALL:HRB

APPROVED BY: AF/PPS:JMCOYKENDALL

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R 082009Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173197

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 0893 ACTION DEPT INFO DURBAN
DAR ES SALAAM JOHANNESBURG LISBON LUANDA LUSAKA LOURENCO
MARQUES PRETORIA BLANTYRE AUGUST 2ND

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SF, US, AO, MZ

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES SAG CONCERN ABOUT
COMMUNIST INFLUENCE OVER FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN
MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: SA FONMIN MULLER HAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR
SAG'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT A MOZAMBIQUE
GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED OR DOMINATED BY FRELIMO COULD BE
INFLUENCED BY COMMUNIST POWERS TO OPEN MOZAMBIQUE PORTS TO
THEIR WARSHIPS. MULLER ASKED AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY THIS
EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO WASHINGTON AND REQUESTED TO BE
INFORMED OF USG'S THINKING ON THIS MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REQUEST OF FONMIN MULLER, AMBASSADOR MET WITH HIM
AND FOREIGN SECRETARY FOURIE JULY 31. MULLER SAID DEVELOP-
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MENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN GENERAL AND IN MOZAMBIQUE

IN PARTICULAR ARE OF CONCERN TO SAG. IT SEEMED ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES BECAME INDEPENDENT, AND IT APPEARED INEVITABLE FRELIMO WOULD COME TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE.

3. SINCE COUP IN PORTUGAL, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND HE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT "SOUTH AFRICA EXTENDS THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO ALL ITS NEIGHBORS, WHETHER THEY ARE BLACK OR WHITE." (FYI: STATE PRESIDENT FOUCHE MADE SAME POINT IN HIS ADDRESS AT OPENING SESSION OF SA PARLIAMENT AUGUST 2. END FYI.) SA READY TO WORK AMICABLY WITH WHOEVER IN CONTROL IN MOZAMBIQUE, BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHAT ATTITUDE OF FRELIMO-CONTROLLED GOVERNMENT WILL BE. SA HOPED NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE STABLE AND SELL-INTENTIONED, BUT IF IT TOOK AGGRESSIVE STEPS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, SAG WOULD REACT ACCORDINGLY.

4. SAG, MULLER SAID, IS WORRIED ABOUT INFLUENCE THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND WONDERS IF COMMUNISTS WILL ENCOURAGE NEW BLACK-DOMINATED GOVERNMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA TO UNDERTAKE AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

5. MULLER THEN GOT TO SPECIFIC POINT HE WANTED TO MAKE. SAG WORRIED, AND BELIEVED USG MAY SIMILARLY BE CONCERNED, ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT MOZAMBIQUE PORTS WILL BE OPENED TO NAVAL VESSELS OF COMMUNIST POWERS. CABORA BASSA AND AVAILABILITY OF MOZAMBIQUE PORTS TO GOODS TO AND FROM SA ARE IMPORTANT TO SA, BUT NOT VITAL. FAR MORE IMPORTANT, AND CAUSING SAG DEEP CONCERN, IS POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST NAVAL BASES IN LOURENCO MARQUES, BERIA, AND NACALA.

6. MULLER SAID THAT DURING HIS "USEFUL TALK" WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER A YEAR AGO, THE SECRETARY HAD SAID USG WATCHING SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION CLOSELY AND WOULD GIVE IT EVEN MORE ATTENTION IF EVENTS WARRANTED. MULLER INTIMATED THAT PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DID INDEED CALL FOR THE CLOSEST ATTENTION OF INTERESTED PARTIES. HE WANTED TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON SAG'S CONCERN AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW USG'S THOUGHTS REGARDING WHAT HE HAD CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT SITUATION VERY FLUID IN PAT'S. HE RECOUNTED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND NOTED THAT APPARENTLY FRELIMO'S POSITION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY STRONGER. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNSURE OF EXACTLY WHAT A FRELIMO-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARD WEST, HOW RESPONSIVE IT WOULD BE TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND WHAT IT MIGHT DO REGARDING MOZAMBIQUE PORTS. AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED

OUR LACK OF LEVERAGE WITH LIBERATION GROUPS, THEN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SOME BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS WERE COUNSELLING FRELIMO NOT TO LET THEMSELVES BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON COMMUNISTS.

8. MULLER SAID HE HAD TALKED TO MALAWI'S PRESIDENT BANDA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. BANDA HAD TOLD HIM THAT NYERERE AND KAUNDA WERE "TRYING TO ADVISE" FRELIMO NOT TO MOVE TOO PRECIPITANTLY TOWARD TOTAL RELIANCE ON COMMUNISTS. HOWEVER, MULLER REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT SITUATION IN PAT'S NEEDS TO BE GIVEN CLOSEST ATTENTION. HE EXPRESSED AGAIN HIS DESIRE TO PASS ON TO WASHINGTON SAG'S CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND IMPLICATIONS THIS WOULD HAVE NOT ONLY FOR SOUTH AFRICA, BUT ALSO FOR CAPE SEA ROUTE AND FOR WESTERN INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN. HURD. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SELFDETERMINATION, DEPENDENCIES, COMMUNISTS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfo
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE173197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/PPS:JMCOYKENDALL:HRB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740217-1020
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740863/aaaacbys.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfo
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by cunninfo>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES SAG CONCERN ABOUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE OVER FUTURE GOVERNMENT IN
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SF, US, AO, MZ, FRELIMO, (MULLER)
To: CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005